Action upon the merits of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the entire paragraph at page 6, lines 15-43 with the following:

--The monomers are subjected to free radical polymerization according to the invention, i.e. polymerization inhibitors which form free radicals under the polymerization conditions are used. Suitable compounds of this type are, for example, hydrogen peroxide, peroxides, hydroperoxides, redox catalysts and nonoxidizing initiators, such as azocompounds which decompose into free radicals under the polymerization conditions. Such azocompounds are, for example, 2,2'-azobis(2-amidinopropane) dihydrochloride, 2,2'-azobis(N,N'-dimethyleneisobutyramidine) dihydrochloride, 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile), 2,2'-azobis[2-methyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)propionamide] or 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile. It is of course also possible to use mixtures of different initiators. A particularly preferred preparation process for the aqueous dispersions of water-soluble polymers is one in which

(A) N-vinylformamide, if desired together with other monoethylenically unsaturated monomers, and

(B) polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone or mixtures thereof

are polymerized at from 40 to 55°C with water-soluble [azoinitiators] azo initiators. Suitable polymeric dispersants (B) are preferably polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol,

copolymers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyridine, polyvinylimidazole, polyvinylsuccinimide, a 1:1 molar ratio copolymer of N-vinylcaprolactam and N-vinylmethacetamide, polydiallyldimethylammonium chloride, polyethyleneimine and mixtures thereof. The molar masses of these polymers are preferably from 1500 to 50,000.--